Recommendations of Science Task Force

782. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the recommendations of the Science Task Forece set up by his Ministry to check the falling number of science students;

(b) the various reasons for the fall in annual growth of science students at university level; and

(c) the measures Government propose to take to encourage the students to take up science subjects at the said level?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) to (c) A Task Force was set up by the Government for strengthening basic science education and research within the existing university system. The recommendations *inter-alia* include to create 1000 positions of research scientists at various levels, five fold increase in the number of Ph. Ds from Indian universities and provisions of fellowships in basic sciences for pursuing Doctoral research etc. The report has been given to the University Grants Commission (UGC) for further action.

Children covered and amount spent on mid-day meal

†783. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of children being provided mid-day meal and the amount being spent thereon;

(b) whether it is a fact that due to this mid-day, the children often suffer from vomiting, diarrhoea and other diseases;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether Government are contemplating to pay cash to the children daily in lieu of mid day meal due to quality of the same; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) During 2005-06, based on the information furnished by State-Union

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.